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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Mark Dever of the Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, DC.

We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. Mark Dever, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray: Lord God, as we begin the official business of the day in this place, we praise You for Your sustaining presence. We remember facing situations that we were certain we could not face, or having to face them, could not survive. Yet, by Your providence, we did. And so we begin this new day by praising You for Your sustaining presence, even in apparently hopeless situations.

We praise You, too, for Your sovereign reminder of Yourself, even through pain and disaster. We confess, Lord, that for all of our words about problems in our society we are too often quietly and wrongly proud of the prosperity of this Nation, feeling that we ourselves are sufficient explanations for all the good we see and know. So, Lord God, we praise You and thank You that You use the bounds of our abilities and troubles to remind us of the limits of our power. Do not leave us, Lord, in false beliefs about ourselves, and our roles here, or about You, and Your rightful claims on us.

When we are frustrated by injustices we cannot address, remind us, Lord, of the brevity of this life. And remind us of Your coming judgment: of its reality, its certainty, its inevitability, its finality.

When we are tempted to be selfish or indifferent to our work, remind us of the responsibility You have entrusted

to us: to listen, to learn, to reflect, to pray, to legislate, to obey.

When we are tempted to pride in what we have done—when we see a bill passed, a program begun or ended, an initiative completed—and we feel something of the power of our office, remind us of our complete and utter dependence on You.

For Your glory, O Lord, restore this land. We know that we are not here finally to fulfill our own desires, or even the desires of our constituents. We know that we are put here to serve You. So, we pray that You would use us—use the business done in this place today, use our Government, use our Nation to display Your character, Your glory throughout all Your creation. We ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 57, the concurrent budget resolution, and will begin a series of consecutive roll-call votes on or in relation to the pending amendments.

Under agreement reached last night, the first series of votes will continue until 1 p.m. today. There will be no votes, as agreed to, between the hours of 1 and 2. However, the Senate will proceed with another series of legislative votes beginning at 2 o'clock today.

Senators are asked to remain in or around the Senate Chamber throughout these voting sequences in order to

facilitate the disposition of amendments as quickly as possible. The first vote in both series will be 15 minutes in length, but all remaining votes will be limited to 10 minutes each. The Senate will complete action on the budget resolution during today's session—hopefully, by late afternoon.

I think we have already considered some 34 amendments. We still have, I guess, 10 or 12 votes that are likely and probably about 4 hours would be required to complete that.

So, if the Members would stay close to the floor and we work hard, I know the managers would appreciate it, and we can get this work done before late this afternoon.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHELBY). The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. While the acting majority leader is here, I would like to clarify a point or two, if I might.

First, I think most of us agree that there has been no one who is more cooperative in moving this thing forward than the ranking member of the Budget Committee.

When I left the floor last night before we adjourned, there had been a firm announcement that—I thought it was a firm announcement—that we would come in at 10 o'clock this morning, which fit in very well with this Senator's schedule, and I think the schedule of the Senate as a whole. I did not know until after the Senate had adjourned, nor was I contacted, about moving the time from 10 o'clock, as stated by the chairman of the committee to the whole Senate half an hour before that.

I would simply say that I wish we would follow the customary procedure. I think it is normal to check with the ranking member before you change times after it has been agreed to.

Following up on that, I must say that I understood that we could not work

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Tuesday night and we could not work Wednesday night, as we had planned to do, because of functions. Now we have lost, I think, 2 hours this morning that we could have used constructively.

I would simply say that at 4 o'clock this afternoon, for the information of the whole Senate, there will be a memorial service for the late, great Cece Zorinsky, the wife of the late great Senator from Nebraska, Senator Edward Zorinsky, in Senate Dirksen G-50, generally called the Senate auditorium. This Senator will make that affair whether I have to miss votes and abandon my responsibilities here.

But I would just inquire at this time, following that memorial service, we have some time between 5 and 6, I believe—and I want to attend that—the salute to Senator DOLE, which I think has been arranged by the acting majority leader and the minority leader, TOM DASCHLE. I would just like to inquire. I see the chairman of committee is here, also. We have an awful lot of interruptions, and I do not want to add to them. The only interruption I am suggesting is that one that I intend to carry out that I committed to a long, long time ago.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could just respond briefly, the Senator has enumerated some of the problems we have been trying to deal with, and we will try to accommodate as many Senators as we can. We have very, very legitimate things to do. We had the memorial, as you know, for Admiral Boorda. We wanted to do that, and we certainly appreciate the Senator's feeling about Cece Zorinsky. That is what has been involved. We are just trying to accommodate everybody's schedule. I am finding out more and more. It gets pretty complicated.

Your point is well taken. We will continue to try to work with everybody, particularly the managers of the bill. We had some complications, and we did check with the leader. I realize it was late last night, but, again, we are just trying to help everybody.

Mr. EXON. You checked with the leader?

Mr. LOTT. Yes, sir. I believe we did. Mr. EXON. I would simply say for the public that you checked with the Democratic leader.

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

Mr. EXON. The Democrat leader would have properly talked to me. He did not. I will talk to him about that.

Mr. LOTT. In his defense, we did it at the last minute, and maybe there just was not enough time or he could not find out. I do not know. But, again, we are just trying to accommodate everybody.

You and the chairman have done a great job trying to move this. It has been slow, but there have been a lot of interruptions that we just could not avoid. We want to keep the heat on today so that we can get through, hopefully, by 4 o'clock. If we could get started voting here right quick, maybe we could make it by 4 o'clock or 4:15 p.m. I would like to help you do that.

Mr. EXON. Let us seek the miracle.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield just for the briefest of questions, I do not want to delay things, I say to Senator DOMENICI, but could the Senator indicate to us, if we finish these blocks of votes on this issue, what is anticipated on the Senate schedule beyond this issue?

Mr. LOTT. Beyond the budget resolution?

Mr. DORGAN. Yes.

Mr. LOTT. We are working on that. We will be communicating with the Democratic leadership. Senator DOLE will be here later this afternoon. We are looking at several items that could be done. We hope we can get those worked out and do them in a way so that they would not involve votes this afternoon. But the leader will be back. He will be here shortly, and he will comment on that.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leader time is reserved.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 57, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 57) setting forth the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

The Senate resumed consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Pending:

Harkin (for Specter) amendment No. 4012, to restore funding for education, training, and health programs to a Congressional Budget Office freeze level for fiscal year 1997 through an across the board reduction in Federal administrative costs.

Bumpers amendment No. 4014, to eliminate the defense firewalls.

Thompson amendment No. 3981, to express the sense of the Senate on the funding levels for the Presidential Election Campaign Fund.

Murkowski amendment No. 4015, to prohibit sense of the Senate amendments from being offered to the budget resolution.

Simpson (for Kerrey) amendment No. 4016, to express the sense of the Senate on long term entitlement reforms.

Chafee/Breaux amendment No. 4018, in the nature of a substitute.

Feingold amendment No. 3969, to eliminate the tax cut.

Domenici (for McCain) amendment No. 4022, to express the sense of the Senate regarding Spectrum auctions and their effect on the integrity of the budget process.

Domenici (for Faircloth) amendment No. 4023, to express the sense of the Senate that any comprehensive legislation sent to the President that balances the budget by a certain date and that includes welfare reform provisions shall also contain to the maximum extent possible a strategy for reducing the rate of out-of-wedlock births and encouraging family formation.

Exon (for Roth) amendment No. 4025, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the funding of Amtrak.

Domenici amendment No. 4027 (to amendment No. 4012), to adjust the fiscal year 1997 non-defense discretionary allocation to the Appropriation Committee by \$5 billion in budget authority and \$4 billion in outlays to sustain 1996 post-OCRA policy.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I do want to say to my friend, Senator EXON, and other Senators who might have heard my comments yesterday about when we would meet today, it was not in the form of a unanimous-consent request, but I did intend and say to the Senator that we would start at 10. Actually, by the time the unanimous consent was proposed by our acting majority leader, forces beyond the Senator from New Mexico and Senator EXON went to work on it and it came out 12 o'clock, so I am very sorry about that. I had nothing to do with it, and I could not have prevented it, and I am not complaining. It is just that is the way it worked out.

Mr. President, I understand, and I think Senator EXON agrees, that the next amendment we are going to take up would be the Bumpers amendment. That is 4014 which would abolish the firewalls.

Mr. EXON. I say to my friend, we will get Senator BUMPERS here. It was our understanding—and maybe once again we missed communications—that the Senator from New Mexico was going to have an amendment.

Mr. DOMENICI. We are going to set aside for a while Specter-Harkin and my second-degree amendment, with the Senator's concurrence.

Mr. EXON. Yes. We are setting aside the amendment that we originally had informally intended to bring up. Is that right?

Mr. DOMENICI. I assume so. I am not sure we had, but nonetheless we can go to anyone that is ready. If Senator BUMPERS can get here—

Mr. EXON. In view of the fact that the schedule has been changed without anybody's false intention, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. DOMENICI. I agree.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4012, AS MODIFIED

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to modify my second-degree amendment in the form of technical changes to be considered when the Senate considers amendment 4012.

Mr. EXON. We have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. I send the modification to the desk.